released the 5 trucks though the 8 people who were abducted were released? I believe the Central Government has lost much time. The Central Government must have some knowledge. I raised a question on 16th March in this very august House. What action has the Government taken? Please enlighten us.

Regarding the recent Indo-Burma Trade Agreement, it is very good. But in the name of trade, the Myanmarese army should not be allowed to extort money from Manipuri people who are Indians. If these things are not looked into very seriously, Chandel District will be taken over by the Burmese Government in course of time. The Government of India should look into it and refix the boundary pillar No. 66 demolished some years back and settle the issue. This is a matter of great national importance. The Government of Manipur ignores it. The Central Government, at least, should pay attention to this and take immediate steps.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : Madam, I endorse whatever Mr. Kulabidhu Singh has said. It is a very serious matter. I would like to know from the Home Minister whether the land border between India and Myanmar has been demarcated. If the Member raised it in March, what were they doing all this time? I insist that there should be a full-fledged discussion of Indo-Myanmarese relationship. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat) : Madam, it is a very, very serious issue. The Government of India should act immediately.

Atrocities on women

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : धन्यवाद, उपसभापति महोदया । मनुष्य और पशु में फर्क यह होता है कि मनुष्य में संवेदनशीलता के साथ-साथ विवेक बुद्धि भी होती है, लेकिन हमारे समाज की संवेदनशीलता किस तरह मरती जा रही है, उसकी विवेकबुद्धि किस तरह मरती जा रही है, इसका उदाहरण हम महिलाएं है जो रात-दिन हमारे समाज के अत्याचारों को सह रही हैं । लेकिन हमारी सरकार संवेदनहीनता के साथ इन तमाम चीजों को देख रही है । मैं आपके समक्ष राजस्थान की अलवार जिले के भिवाड़ी औद्योगिक अंचल की घटना का उदाहरण देना चाहूंगी । आज के जनसत्ता में एक बहुत बड़ी रिपोर्ट इस घटना के बारे में छपी है । मैं चाहूंगी की हमारे माननीय गृह मंत्री जी जो यहां बैठे हैं इस घटना की गम्भीरता को समझकर इसकी जांच करवायेंगे और इस सदन को इसकी जानकारी देंगे कि उन्होंने इस मामले में क्या किया है । एक उन्मादित भीड़ किस तरह से अपना विवेक खोकर, अपनी संवेदनशीलता खोकर, एक हरिजन महिला को निर्वस्त्र करके दो घंटे तक लगातार घुमाती रहती है, पूरा का पूरा जलूस इसके पीछे घुमता है और किसी पुलिस वाले की हिम्मत नहीं होती कि वह आकर कोई कार्यवाही करे । क्या यह हमारे समाज के लिए सोचने की बात नहीं है । यह बड़े शर्म की बात है । हमारे समाज पर एक कलंक है बहुत बड़ा । हमने राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग गठित कर दिया है लेकिन आज तक उसकी एक रिपोर्ट इस संसद के पटल पर नहीं रखी गयी है । हमारी सरकार क्या कर रही है । हमेशा इस तरह की घटनाएं घटती रहती हैं । कभी कोई महिला इस तरह की घटनाओं का शिकार होती है तो कभी कोई दुसरी महिला इस तरह की घटनाओं का शिकार होती है । क्या हम महिलाएं इन अत्याचारों को सिर्फ मूक गवाह और मूक शिकार होकर देखती रहेंगी और सरकार हाथ पर हाथ धरे बैठी रहेगी । तो मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि आप हमारे गृह मंत्री को निर्देश दें कि कम से कम वे इस सदन में एक बार तो बतायें कि उन्होंने इन घटनाओं में किस तरह का एक्शन लिया है और यह कार्यवाही की है हम हमेशा आवाज उठाते रहते हैं लेकिन सरकार निर्विकार और बिना किसी आवाज उठाये चुपचाप देखती रहती है । मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि गृह मंत्री जी बोले... (व्यवधान) क्यों इस तरह की घटनाएं घटती जा रही है ।

श्री शिवचरण सिंह (राजस्थान) : राज्य सरकार ने पूरी तरह से इसमें कार्यवाही की है... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari. Time and again, I have also drawn the attention of this House to this issue. Since the hon. Home Minister is present in the House, I would request him, it is time that the Government took a conscious action against such things. I would also like the hon. Minister to say something on the issue on the flour of this

House. Otherwise, it is pointless that women of this House should unite and constantly raise such an issue. It becomes a matter that has been raised and it is registered as statistics. I want to ask the hon. Minister, if we are to be true participants in the affairs of this nation under the Constitution, then give us the same status as is given to men. You must take cognisance of this thing. Now, one Lorena Bobbit did it somewhere and it becomes international news. Renuka Chowdhury does something to some man, it becomes a front-page news. But thousands of things are happening against the Renuka Chowdhuries of this world, but nobody bothers. (*Interruptions*). It is not something to laught at. We call this country our *mathru bhoomi* because we have taken birth here. We belong to this nation. Each woman is a *mathri bhoomi* and all these men have been born of this mother earth, of this divine physical *Avtar* of the *mathri bhoomi*. How is it that they are allowed to treat us with gross disrespect and how does the onus to prove their misdeeds lie on us? I want an assurance from the Home Minister. Such type of crimes should be dealt with severely and it should be made known that if a man commits a crime against a woman, he will be debarred from public life, his promotion will be held back and his final dues will not be paid to him. Unless there is a social deterrent to this type of crime, nothing is going to be achieved. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to extend my total support to the views expressed by Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari and Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. In every Session, all of us join together and raise this issue. I would like to seek an assurance from the Hon. Minister. Madam, you from the Chair, supported our demand particularly with regard to the status of woman. I would like an assurance from you that at least today, in the Business Advisory Committee or in any other appropriate forum, time should be set apart to discuss the atrocities on women. Time and again we demand that time should be set apart in this House, but only certain issues where people rush to the well of the House and keep shouting, are raised. Half of the population of the country is being raped, murdered and killed everyday and nobody is bothered. It is not funny. Madam, I request that at least in this Session some time we can set aside to discuss the issues relating to women. And I have a last request to my male colleagues here that they do not need to raise issue relating to women. If it is not the baby of concern to them, please don't make it something funny. There is nothing to laugh at. There is nothing to be trivialised. We will not put up with this laughing at any more.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY: Madam, there is a law against women in everything. If we are launching an anti-liquor movement, we are standing in front of a shop and begging people not to drink, we are arrested by the Andhra Police who tell us that we have been indulging in immoral traffic. Really, there is no *sati* without *pati* because there are *patis* and we have to marry them and we have to do *sati*. There is no rape without men, Madam. Under the Immoral Traffic Act, only the woman is being penalised. The male customer gets away with it. Somewhere there has to be equality of justice This is what I am pleading for... (*Interruptions*). ...

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): May I react, Madam?

सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, आपके कहने से पहले एक मिनट लेना चाहता हूं ।

سید سبط رضی "اتر پردیش" میڈم۔ آپ کے کہنے سے پہلے ایک منٹ لینا چاہتا ہوں ۔

उपसभापति : आपके अलावा एक दूसरे पुरूष भी बोलना चाह रहे हैं ।

सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं एक मिनट इसलिए लेना चाहूंगा क्योंकि यह चेयर भी जो है वह एक लेडी ही इस हाउस को चेअर करती है । .... (व्यवधान) और आप भी कुछ कमेंट देना चाहती है उससे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा क्योंकि ऐसा मैसेज जा रहा है कि शायद यह लड़ाई मर्दों और औरतों के बीच में है । ऐसी बात नहीं है । यह न्याय और अन्याय के बीच में लड़ाई है और हम सब इसकी

[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

भर्त्सना करते हैं। .... (व्यवधान) क्योंकि देश के अंदर अपनी परिपाटी रही है। इस देश के अंदर जितने भी महिला आंदोलन चले हैं उनकी अगुवाई हमेशा पुरुषों ने की है। चाहे वह राजा राम मोहन राय रहे हों। इसलिए मैं इस बात को कहना चाहूंगा कि .... (व्यवधान) यदि आप मुझे बोलने का मौका न देती तो शायद यह मैसेज जाता कि हाउस में या बाहर जिस तरह से उन चीजों को प्रोटैक्ट कर रहे हैं, जो हमारे लिए अशोभनीय है, समाज के लिए वह अशोभनीय है। मैं अपनी बहन के साथ हूं और इस सिलसिले में यदि कोई भी आंदोलन चलाया जाएगा .... (व्यवधान) तो हम सब पुरुष मिलकर उसका मुकाबला करेंगे। यह हमारे समाज के अंदर एक बहुत बड़ा अंतरभेद चल रहा है, ज्यादतियां हो रही हैं। पुलिस को भी इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए, प्रदेश सरकारों को भी ध्यान देना चाहिए और गरीबी के आधार पर महिलाओं के साथ जो अन्याय हो रहे हैं उसके खिलाफ आवाज उठाई जानी चाहिए और जो अत्याचारी है उनको ऐसे दंड दिये जाने चाहिएं जिससे दोबारा वे इस प्रकार की घटनाएं मत करें। मैं अपनी बहन के साथ हूं।

سید سبط رضی : میں ایک منٹ اس لئے لینا چاہوں گا کیونکہ یہ چیئر بھی جو ہے وہ ایک لیڈی ہی اس ہاؤس کو چیئر کرتی ہے . . . "مداخلت" اور آپ بھی کچھ کمینٹ دینا چاہتی ہیں اور اس سے پہلے میں یہ کہنا چاہوں گا کیوں کہ ایسا میسیج جا رہا ہے کہ شاید یہ لڑائی مردوں اور عورتوں کے بیچ میں ہے۔ ایسی بات نہیں ہے یہ نیائے اور انیائے کے بیچ میں لڑائی ہے اور ہم سب اس کی بھرتسنا کرتے ہیں . . . "مداخلت" کیوں کہ دیش کے اندر اپنی بڑی پارٹی رہی ہے اس دیش کے اندر جتنے بھی مہیلا آندولن چلے ہیں اُن کی اگوائی ہمیشہ پرشوں نے کی ہے چاہے وہ

راجہ رام موہن رائے ہوں۔ اس لئے میں اس بات کو کہنا چاہوں گا کہ . . "مداخلت" یدی آپ مجھے بولنے کا موقع نہیں دیتیں تو شاید یہ میسیج جاتا کہ ہاؤس میں یا باہر جس طرح سے ان چیزوں کو پروٹیکٹ کر رہے ہیں۔ جو ہمارے لئے اشوبھنیہ ہے۔ سماج کے لئے وہ اشوبھنیہ ہے۔ میں اپنی بہن کے ساتھ ہوں اور اس سلسلے میں یدی کوئی آندولن چلایا جائے گا . . . "مداخلت" تو ہم سب پُرش مل کر اس کا مقابلہ کریں گے۔ یہ ہمارے سماج کے اندر بہت بڑا انتر بھید چل رہا ہے۔ زیادتیاں ہو رہی ہیں پولیس کو بھی اس طرف دھیان دینا چاہیئے۔ پردیش سرکار کو بھی دھیان دینا چاہیئے۔ اور ورتیا کے آدھار پر مہیلاؤں کے ساتھ جو انیائے ہو رہے ہیں اُس کے خلاف آواز اُٹھائی جانی چاہیئے۔ اور جو انیائی ہیں اُن کو ایسے ڈنڈ دیئے جانے چاہئیں جس سے دوبارہ وہ اس پرکار کی گھٹنائیں نہ کریں۔ میں اپنی بہن کے ساتھ ہوں۔

[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, I would like to react. I fully share the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members on the floor of the House. I will definitely make inquiries into the matter and request the State Government to submit a report to me, but the hon. Members should try to understand my difficulty also. I can merely get the report and place it on the Table of the House. I can't take any action. It will be the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take the action. ... *(Interruptions)* ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Because of the federal structure I don't think that we have still enacted a legislation by which, if such atrocities are brought to the notice of the Centre, we can directly take any action. That kind of provision or statute is not there on the Statute Book. I can request the State Government to take stringent action so that incidents of this nature are not repeated.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister has made his comments and he has expressed his opinion that under the present constitutional provisions and laws, he cannot take direct action, but, as Jayanthi Natarajan has suggested, we should discuss this matter on the floor of the House, and this happens to be the Council of States, we can discuss, above party lines, the issue of atrocities, especially on women ... *(Interruptions)* ...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अनुसूचित जातियों के ऊपर भी ।

उपसभापति : एक मिनट, जरा बैठिए, प्लीज ।

The women are weaker and the women of the weaker sections are the weakest ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI G. G. SWELL: No. Biologically, ... *(Interruptions)* ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt me. I would be very thankful if a serious matter is taken seriously. That was the complaint of Jayanthi Natarajan, Renuka Chowdhury, Sarala Maheshwari and the rest of you. The question is, if we address it and strengthen the hands of the Home Minister in a proper way, then, I am sure, we would be able to overcome this crisis. So, I would definitely recommend that we discuss the matter and find out ways and means. It is not that we cannot find out ways and means to protect the women of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, may I make a suggestion when we are on the subject? First of all, they have to interpret the word "atrocity" in its proper perspective. "Atrocity" is not merely physical violation or violation of one's physical self. Atrocity is the discrimination practised against women. It is done even in public sector. If my husband and I work in a public sector company, my husband can get medical facilities for his parents. But I cannot get them since I am a dependent on my husband. I am paying income-tax on my own strength. my parents. I am denied ... *(Interrup-*may parents. I am denied ... *(Interruptions)* ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Renukaji, all these matters are concerned with various Ministries. Various laws have to be enacted. It can be discussed at that point of time. Now, we will come to other points. ... *(Interruptions)* ... Now Mr. Ahluwalia, don't make it an issue of authority. My authority is there not because I am a woman but because I am sitting in the Chair. So, you have to listen to me whether I am a woman or a man. ... *(Interruptions)* ... Please sit down. Now, I have to bring to the notice of the Members that it is almost ... *(Interruptions)* ... Mrs. Renuka Chawdhury, you please sit down. Now it is about 1 o'clock. We have to adjourn the House at 1.30 p.m. for lunch. I have ten Special Mentions before me. We have the Commerce Minister sitting over here to make his statement. If it is the pleasure of the House, we can take the Special Mentions in the evening or tomorrow and we can ask him to make his statement. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, would you make your statement? ... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): When will the Special Mentions be taken up? Some time should be fixed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After the discussion or, may be, the day after tomorrow. It depends on how the business of the House is moving. If there is time, we will take them up today; otherwise the day after tomorrow.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Concluding Ministerial Meeting of Uruguay Round

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, India has authenticated the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, representing the outcome of the Seven year long multilateral trade negotiations, on 15 April, 1994. Hundred and ten countries also authenticated the Final Act. Additionally ninety-four countries also signed the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation.

There was endorsement of the results of the Uruguay Round as a whole from all countries, developing and developed. The meeting was, however, divided over what the future work programme of the WTO should focus on. While the US and some European countries attached importance to the consideration of the link between trade and international labour standards, India alongwith some other countries attached greater importance to issues like restrictive business practices and immigration policies. While none of these issues became the subject of a Multilateral decision or declaration, the Preparatory Committee of the WTO will be competent to discuss which issues should be included in the future agenda of the WTO. Any decision in this regard can only be taken by consensus. The concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting includes, inter alia, the following statement:

> In the statements which they made in the course of this meeting, Ministers representing a number of participating delegations stressed the importance they attach to their requests for an examination of the relationship between the trading system and internationally recognised labour standards, the relationship between immigration policies and international trade, trade and competition policy, including rules on export financing and restrictive business practices, trade and investment, regionalism, the interaction between trade policies and policies relating to financial and monetary matters, including debt and commodity markets, international trade and company law, the establishment of a mechanism for compensation for the erosion of preferences, the link between trade, development, political stability and the alleviation of poverty, and unilateral or extraterritorial trade measures.

A number of developing countries decided to co-operate in formulating their response to any attempts to introduce linkages between social policy issues and trade policy.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam, under Rule 167, I beg to move the following motion that this House takes note of the statement made by the Minister on the GATT Treaty and records its disapproval of Government's action regarding the signing of the Treaty. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): I object to it. Madam, I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: What is this? (*Interruptions*). This statement is full of. ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sikander Bakht, there is a point of order. Let me listen to it.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, the motion which the Leader of the Opposition is seeking to move cannot be moved in this House. The Minister has made a statement. I call your attention to Rule 167 under which he wants to move this motion. Rule 167 says:—

> "Save insofar as is otherwise provided by the Constitution or by these rules, no discussion of a matter of general public interest shall take place except on a motion made with the consent of the Chairman."